

Millom Urban Sanitary District.



Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health.



*Summary of action taken during the year ending
December 31st, 1909, to prevent the spread
of Disease.*



Scarlet Fever.—Nineteen cases. All but one were removed to the Isolation Hospital at once. I could not trace the source of infection, in some there were cases in the same street, and in three cases more than one in the same house took it. Then there were two cases, over a mile from the centre of population. The milk supply gave no help, and no report of a doubtful case in the schools was received from the School Medical Officer.

Diphtheria.—No cases.

Erysipelas.—Four cases. No deaths.

Enteric Fever. — Two cases. One death. One in a common lodging house was probably imported.


Diarrhœa and Enteritis.—Three deaths.

Measles.—Two deaths.

Whooping Cough.—One case.

Influenza.—No deaths.

Puerperal Fever.—No cases.



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Infant Mortality.—Twenty-seven deaths. Three from Enteritis, one from Gastro-intestinal Catarrh, five premature birth, five from Atrophy, one Tubercular Meningitis, three Tabes Mesenterica, two other Tubercular Disease, six Pneumonia and Bronchitis, one other causes. The Notification of Births Act, 1907, has not been adopted, and is not required.

Tuberculosis.—Three cases have been reported by the District Medical Officer, and in July all the Medical men were asked to report such cases, under the N. D. A., receiving the statutory fee. Fourteen such cases were reported. During the year there were eleven deaths from this cause. Five deaths in children under one year, from some Tubercular Disease, or 1.6 of the population.

Cancer.—Nine deaths.

Zymotic Disease caused five deaths, two less than last year, or .5 per 1,000, the lowest we have ever had from this cause.

Water Supply continues very good, being upland surface water, is pure and of ample quantity. No water is now used for drinking purposes except from the Council's mains. The District lies between high hills and the Estuary of the River Duddon, and is about one mile on its outer side from the sea, into which the drainage is carried. The soil is clay, with a good subsoil of sand and gravel.

The great majority of the inhabitants are Iron Ore Miners and Blast Furnacemen, the house accommodation is more than sufficient for the demand, as there are now nearly 200 houses empty, and two were built during the year. The total number available for tenants are 2,020.

No action has been taken under the Housing of the Working Classes Act, and none is needed.

Milk Supply.—Much the same as last year. We are still looking for the new Act promised us on this subject, but it appears to be still in the misty future.

No Tubercular Milk has been found.

Other Food.—My attention has not been called to any diseased meat, or the unsanitary condition of premises where food is stored, and no action has been taken or needed under the Sale of Foods and Drugs Act (Section 117) of the Public Health Act, 1875.

Common Lodging Houses, Slaughter Houses, Bake Houses, Dairies and Factories have been inspected during the year, and any nuisance or defect at once reported to the owner and occupier, and as a rule, are at once attended to.

Duddon Port.—Notices have been received from time to time from the Local Government Board, stating Ports abroad where there were cases of Plague and Cholera, and the attention of the Custom House Officer has been called to these Ports, but we have no vessels arriving from such Ports, and no action has been required. I propose, if any such case should occur, to utilise the Small Pox Hospital, containing eight beds, which stands by itself, far from any house and near the port, and which has never been used for any purpose.

Schools.—Public Elementary.—The sanitary condition is good, and the water is supplied from the Council's Mains.

County Medical Officer of Health is sent once a month (soon to be increased to once a week) a return of all cases of Infectious Diseases in my District, and he sends me a return of all such cases in the County. This is useful as it may help me to trace cases of infection to their source.

Excrement.—Water Closets are now used all over the District. The sewers are flushed as required, and discharged into the estuary of the River Duddon, near the sea.

Removal and Disposal of House Refuse is carried out by the Council's own men and horses, and is very satisfactory. The removals for the year were 29,169, as compared with 23,102 last year. A new refuse tip has been obtained, which is some

distance from any house, and where it cannot cause any nuisance. A great improvement on the old one.

Pollution of Rivers.—None.

Nuisances.—House to house inspection is carried out systematically. Notices are served without delay to remove defects, or abate nuisances, and in most cases, little difficulty is found in this being done.

Six yard drains cleared or repaired.

Fifteen Water Closets cleared and repaired.

Ten yards paved and re-laid.

Five Slopstone pipes lengthened.

Five new gullies substituted for defective ones.

Eight removals of hens, ducks, and geese from yards.

Three slopstone gullies cleared.

One pigstye found in a filthy condition.

Sewage and Drainage is complete in all parts of the district and is under constant supervision, all defects, when found, being at once made good.

Notification of Disease.—Scarlet Fever, 19 ; Erysipelas, four ; Enteric Fever, two ; Phthisis, 14. Disinfectants have been supplied gratuitously in every case reported, and house, clothing, bedding, etc., fumigated or sent to the Steam Disinfectory, which has been used 24 times during the year. The School Attendance Officer and the Librarian have received early notice of each case.

Isolation Hospital receives cases from the whole of the Bootle Union, with an acreage of 91,188, and a population of 16,727, and is worked by a Joint Committee of Bootle Union, Rural Council, and Millom Urban Council ; it supplies a long felt want in South Cumberland, and is much appreciated by the Medical Officers of the Union, and it has no doubt been of considerable value in preventing the spread of disease. The Hospital stands in its own grounds of about three acres at a good distance from any inhabited house. Twenty-one cases of Scarlet Fever were admitted during the year. Eighteen from the Rural,

and three from the Urban District. All were discharged cured ; one case of Enteric was admitted from the Urban District, and was discharged cured. Four cases of Diphtheria were admitted from the Rural District, one died, and three were discharged cured.

Factory and Workshops Act. — These have all been inspected in the ordinary course of house-to-house visitation and were found clean and without any sanitary defects.

Deaths registered 133, one from outside the district, or 13.30 per 1000. Children under 1 year, 27 ; under 5 years, 12 ; from 5 to 15, 6 ; 25 and under 60, 7 ; 10 over 60 ; 17 over 70 ; 8 over 80 ; and 1 over 90.

Births 216, or 21.60, a decrease of 26 on last year. Reports have been made to the Council every four weeks during the year, showing the births and deaths, and percentage of the same, the number of Infectious cases reported, and the work done during that time, and calling their attention to anything of a special nature. I enclose herewith the usual tables of statistics.

(Signed),

PERCY B. STONEY,

Medical Officer of Health.

2nd February, 1910.

